GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2816
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2001
EXPLORATORY DRILLING WORKS BY ONGC
TRILOCHAN KANUNGO

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of exploratory drilling works currently under operation for oil and natural gas along with the agency undertaking the whole-task, location-wise;

(b) whether recently new blocks have been assigned to some agencies to undertake the drilling work of exploration;

(c) if so, the places or locations with the names of States to which they belong and the names of agencies entrusted with exploring drilling work;

(d) whether on shore or off-shore drilling operations of Mahanadi Basin have been entrusted to any agency; and

(e) if so, the number of blocks and the names of these agencies and the current status of the projects?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement refered to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Q.No.2816 for answer on 9.8.2001 regarding Exploratory drilling works by ONGC.

(a) During the first quarter of 2001-02, 40 exploratory wells have been completed and another 11 and 26 wells are under production testing jobs and drilling respectively by Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC)Out of the 40 wells completed , 9 have proved to be oil bearing and six gas bearing. These exploratory activities are being carried out by ONGC in the States of Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Assam, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh and the Offshore areas in the east and west coast.

Oil India is currently carrying out exploratory drilling work in the upper Assam basin in the State of Assam.In the first quarter of 2001-02, Oil India Ltd.has completed drilling of two wells which have proved to be oil & gas with condensate producing on initial testing. Drilling is in progress in another two wells.

As far as blocks awarded under pre-New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) and under NELP to Private/Joint Venture Companies are concerned, exploratory drilling was carried out in two wells in KG offshore and one in Rajasthan during the first quarter of 2001-02. The gas was discovered in one of the well while two wells were abandoned.

(b) & (c): Under the First and Second rounds of NELP, 47 exploration blocks have been awarded, the details of which are given in Annexure I to the Statement.However, drilling in several of these blocks will depend upon the outcome of the survey results & availability of suitable drilling location.

(d) & (e): Contracts have been signed with various companies for 8 exploration blocks under NELP I & II in Mahanadi basin & North East Coast offshore, the details of which are given in Annexure II to the Statement.The work programme for Phase I includes exploratory drilling in one of these blocks, viz. NEC-OSN/97/2.